

# Documents on Diplomacy: Resources

## A Gathering of Dark Clouds: Negotiating Peace

### THE TASK

Diplomats of the United States and Japan are attempting to resolve the issues of Japan's presence in China, the Japanese occupation of French Indochina and the U.S. embargo against Japan. Negotiations are deemed vital to avoid war between the two countries. However, the dealings have been fractious and void of compromise.

### KEY PLAYERS

**CORDELL HULL**, as Secretary of State, is the chief U.S. negotiator with Japanese Ambassador Nomura and Special Envoy Kurusu. The Secretary is well known for speaking his mind and being a tough negotiator.

**KENSUKE HORINOUCHI** received his appointment as Ambassador to the United States in 1938. He most recently served as the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan and has 27 years of diplomatic experience. He served as counselor to the embassy in Washington in 1930 and as consul general in New York in 1931–1934.

**KICHISABURO NOMURA** was sent as ambassador to the United States on November 27, 1940, replacing Kensuke Horinouchi. Apparently the Japanese Government hoped his more pro-American stance would help alleviate, or at least soothe, the matters of contention between the two countries. The Ambassador is a gracious and knowledgeable man. He hopes to avoid a war with the United States.

**SABURO KURUSU** is a famed diplomat from Japan. His previous posting was in Germany from 1939–1941 where he signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. He first came to the United States in 1914 as the Japanese Consul in Chicago. It was there that he married American Alice Jay Little. Upon his arrival in Washington on November 15, 1941, he said, I am indeed glad to be here in your nation's capital. I extend greetings to all from the bottom of my heart."

**HIROHITO** became the 124<sup>th</sup> emperor of Japan in December 1926. Despite his deified personage, the Emperor could not act without the input of government ministers and staff. He was not keen on the war against China and the establishment of Manchukuo (formerly Manchuria), but he approves of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT** is beginning his third term of office in 1940. He is alarmed by Germany's extreme aggression in Europe and the expansion of Japan into China and Indochina. Recent policies favor Great Britain in its stand against Hitler. However, the mood of the Congress and American people still leans toward isolationism.